

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06352 201526Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----013092 201958Z /44  
R 201459Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0361  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06352

EXDIS

USEEC

DEPT ALSO PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI AND AARON

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EEC  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT OF PRESIDENT COLOMBO OF EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT TO U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 15035: (B) USEC A-245

1. PRESIDENT COLOMBO OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WANTS TO MEET  
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE SEES PROPOSED MEETING AS AN  
OPPORTUNITY FOR CARTER TO DRAMATIZE U.S. INTEREST IN  
EUROPEAN UNITY. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO, COLOMBO CLEARLY  
ALSO SEES VISIT TO U.S. AS WAY OF ENHANCING HIS OWN POLI-  
TICAL PRESTIGE.

2. TOWARD END OF MY PROTOCOL CALL ON PRESIDENT OF EURO-  
PEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG JUNE 14, COLOMBO PROPOSED  
THAT HE VISIT PRESIDENT CARTER. DRAWING ON EARLIER  
GUIDANCE (REFTEL A), I SUGGESTED A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT  
MIGHT BE ARRANGED AT TIME OF NEXT VISIT OF EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT ARIANS BUT COLOMBO FLATLY REJECTED THE IDEA,  
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SAYING, "NO, I WILL NOT GO AS FIRST AMONGST A DELEGATION."  
HE POINTED OUT THAT AS PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT HIS PROTOCOL  
RANKING IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS NUMBER 1. NOTING  
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD ALREADY RECEIVED EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY JENKINS, HE SAID THAT WAS GOOD  
BUT IT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER FOR U.S.-EUROPEAN RELATIONS  
WERE HE TO BE RECEIVED. HE ALSO MENTIONED DE MARTINO'S

VISIT AS PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON AS A PRECEDENT WORTHY OF EMULATION. COLOMBO MENTIONED MEETING HE HAD AS ITALIAN TREASURY MINISTER WITH PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND OF HIS ADMIRATION FOR KENNEDY'S PHILADELPHIA SPEECH ON INTERDEPENDENCE. HE THOUGHT A COLOMBO-CARTER MEETING WOULD BE AN APT OCCASION FOR A SIMILAR MAJOR U.S. POLICY DECLARATION CONCERNING EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. HE WOULD WANT ALSO TO VISIT CONGRESS AND TO MEET WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, FROM WHOM HE HAD RECEIVED A THOUGHTFUL LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT, AND WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL AS WELL AS WITH SECRETARY VANCE.

.3. I TOLD COLOMBO THAT THE IDEA WAS ATTRACTIVE ALTHOUGH I SAW SOME PROBLEMS IN TRYING TO ARRANGE A SPECIAL VISIT. I AGREED TO PUT THE MATTER TO WASHINGTON AND TO BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM.

.4. WE HAVE RECOMMENDED A VISIT BY THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF A DIRECTLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (SEE REF B). AT BEST, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT OF A DIRECTLY ELECTED PARLIAMENT WIL NOT BE IN OFFICE UNTIL MID-1978 AND MORE PROBABLY LATE '78 OR EARLY '79. THUS, A COLOMBO VISIT IN 1977 WOULD NOT CROWD THE CALENDAR FROM THE EUROPEAN POINT OF VIEW. IF THE PRESIDENT WOULD RECEIVE COLOMBO, THE OCCASION COULD BE EXPLOITED FOR SYMBOLIC PURPOSES, ESPECIALLY AS AN ENDORSE-  
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MENT OF MOVE TO DIRECT ELECTIONS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PROPERLY TIMED AND ORCHESTRATED A VISIT MIGHT HAVE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON THE BRITISH DIRECT ELECTION LEGISLATION COMMONS AFTER THE SUMMER RECESS.

5. WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE COLOMBO IS THE NUMBER 1 EUROPEAN IN A PROTOCOL SENSE, HE IS HEAD OF PARLIAMENT NOT THE EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE. THUS, AN INVITATION FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE SPEAKER MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD THAT A CALL ON PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD BE SCHEDULED.

6. AS WELL AS BEING A EUROPEAN OF NOTE, COLOMBO'S PAST ROLE AND FUTURE POTENTIAL IN ITALIAN POLITICS IS TO BE CONSIDERED. AMBASSADOR GARDNER MAY WISH TO COMMENT.

7. ACTION REQUEST: GUIDANCE AS TO HOW TO REPLY TO COLOMBO. HINTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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